

# WA Shipwrecks Museum

## de Vlamingh's Journey: Exploring the Evidence Self-Guided Museum Exploration

### Adult Helper Instructions

Follow these icons so you know what to do.



Read this information to students



Complete all the tasks.



Get the students to answer all the questions.



Extra challenges for if you have time.

You will visit three galleries. Spend 15 minutes in each:

- Hartog to de Vlamingh Gallery
- Batavia Gallery
- Dutch Wrecks Gallery

You can do this in any order. Take your time to enjoy and explore some things you are interested in.



*OK everyone gather in close... today we will be exploring the WA Shipwrecks Museum in our group.*

*You will also visit the activity room to learn about explorer Willem de Vlamingh and his journey to the WA coast.*

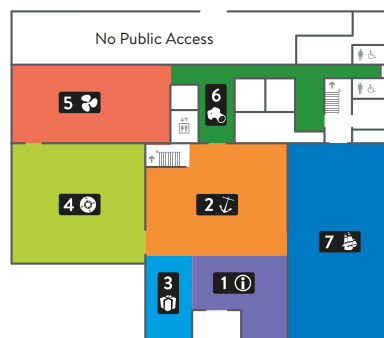
*We know a lot about de Vlamingh because of objects and records from the past. Let's find this evidence in the Museum.*



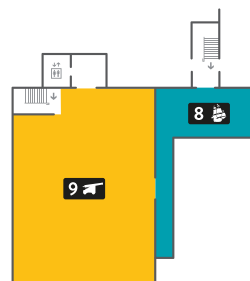
Portrait of a Dutch Navigator c 1690 by Jan Verkolje, assisted by Nicholas Verkolje, oil on canvas.

Courtesy of the Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney.

#### Ground Level



#### Level 1



#### Map Key

Ground Level:

1. Information Desk
2. Entrance Gallery
3. Museum Shop
- 4. Hartog to de Vlamingh Gallery**
5. Xantho Gallery
6. Corridor Displays
- 7. Batavia Gallery**

Level 1:

8. Batavia Observation Deck
- 9. Dutch Wrecks Gallery**





## Hartog to de Vlamingh Gallery 4



Imagine you are an explorer, hunting for evidence of history in the Museum.

You need some things to help you find your way.



Find one map and one navigational tool that you find interesting.



Towards the end of the gallery, find the section on The de Vlamingh Expedition 1696-1697.



Find the two plates in this area.



These plates were special monuments left on Dirk Hartog Island by Dutch ships.

They are a really important part of WA's history of explorers.

The Hartog plate is a replica. The real one is in a Dutch museum in Amsterdam.



Can you read a date on this replica plate?



This is the real de Vlamingh plate. It is more than 300 years old.

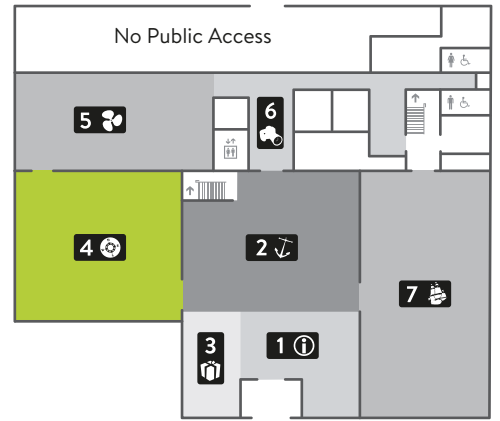
How amazing is it that we have it here?

Check out the special case it is in to protect it from further damage.



Find out how the de Vlamingh plate got to be in this Museum.

### Ground Level



Don't leave this area yet – there's a few more things to find!



Find this display. It contains a journal from one of de Vlamingh's ships and it describes some scurvy cures.



Do you like gross things?  
What is one symptom of scurvy?



Touch the nearby screen until you find a plate of fruit to find out more about scurvy.



Find this map on the wall.

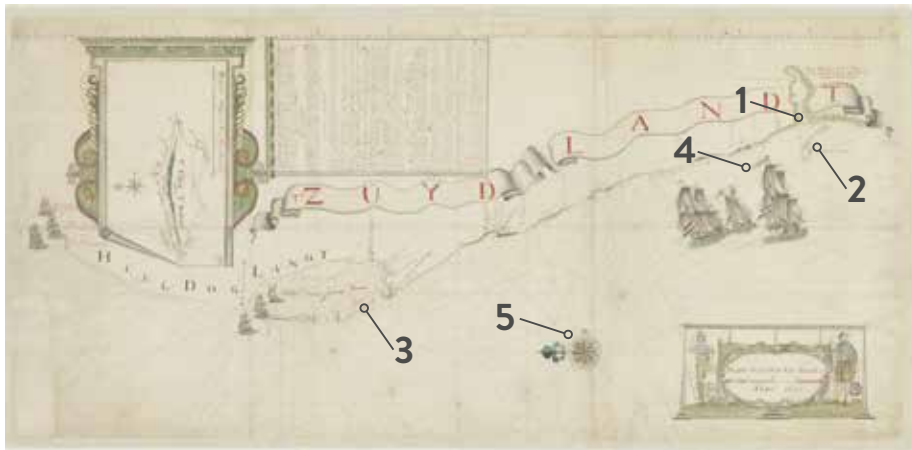


Chart of Willem de Vlamingh's expedition to the South Land, showing Dirk Hartog Island and the ships Geelvinck, Nyptangh and Weseltje, 1697.

Source: National Archives of the Netherlands.



This map tracks de Vlamingh's journey along the coast of WA. It might not look like WA because the map is lying sideways and only shows a section of our coast.



On the map on the wall, find these things:

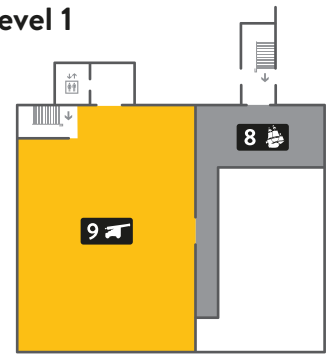
1. Swan River
2. Rottneest Island
3. Dirk Hartog Island
4. A Dutch flag
5. A symbol that shows North



What language is the map written in? In today's activity, you will learn the Aboriginal names for these places.



Find these things: Some eating utensils, a quokka, some zamia nuts, a swan, and the post that the de Vlamingh plate was attached to.



**Dutch Wrecks Gallery**

**9**



The objects in this gallery provide evidence of the past from four Dutch ships that sank off the WA coast between 1629 and 1727.

Dutch explorer Willem de Vlamingh set sail in 1696, so we can get an idea of things that were used on his ships too.



**Be a Museum tour guide:**

- Each person in our group chooses a category from the list below.
- Find ONE object that fits into your category.
- Find out some facts about it using the questions below.
- Present your object to your group.



Eating and Drinking



Clothing (fastenings)



Money



Ship parts (ropes, nails etc)



Defence (weapons)



**Examine your chosen object.**



**What was it made from?**

**How was it used?**

**Which shipwreck was it from?**

**How does this object compare to something similar we use today?**



**Many of these items were exchanged or traded between countries.**

**What is trade and why was it so important in the past and today?**



**Head next door to the *Batavia Observation Deck* and sit in the ‘captain’s cabin’.**

**Imagine you are a Dutch spice trader. Shhh... be very quiet in here to soak up the atmosphere.**

**Tell your friends: What would be the best and worst parts of your job?**



## Batavia Gallery

7



Find the wreck of the *Batavia*, which sank almost 400 years ago off the WA coast. It is the largest piece of evidence in this Museum.



Ask a confident reader to use their most dramatic voice to read this story aloud to your group as you stand beneath this amazing wreck.

### The Journey

The ship left Holland on a spice trade journey with over 300 people and 12 chests of silver coins. Some men on board were planning a mutiny (take over).

### The Shipwreck

The ship ran into a reef off the coast of WA and began to sink. Most passengers and crew made it to some small, dry islands. The commander left on a small boat to get help.

### The Mutiny

After the commander left, the mutineers began attacking the survivors. Some brave soldiers finally managed to capture the mutineer's leader.

### The Rescue

The soldiers sent smoke signals and raced to warn the rescue ship of the mutineers' horrible deeds.

### The Punishment

The mutineers were severely punished and the brave survivors were taken to safety.



Find this picture in the gallery.

*It was created 22 years after the event, based on sources like the commander's journal.*

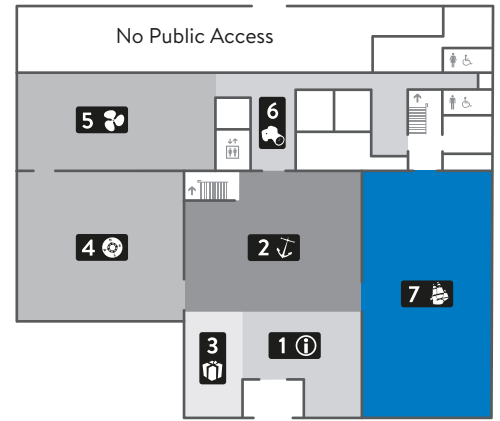


Do you think the picture is reliable in telling us what really happened? What other pieces of evidence help to reveal the story?



Hundreds of years after *Batavia* sank, the wreck was discovered. Parts of the ship and its' cargo are now in this Museum. Isn't that incredible?

### Ground Level



Engraving of the massacre that followed the *Batavia* shipwreck - from the Jan Janz 1647 edition of *Ongeluckige Voyage vant schip Batavia* (Plate 3).  
Source: Wikimedia Commons





Find the skeleton of a *Batavia* passenger in this gallery.

Check the 'evidence' on this person's skull.



How do you think they were injured?



Find the display showing the items inside a loaded cannon, which was found in the *Batavia* wreck.



Why do you think cannons were sometimes pre-loaded on ships?



Explore this gallery to find evidence of other things on board the *Batavia*. Which object do you find most interesting?